

change which I, as chairman of the Rules Committee, am happy to cosponsor. I commend our colleague, Senator BOB SMITH, for an excellent and outstanding idea.

Since 1892, Americans have expressed their reverence for the flag of this Nation and all it represents by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was first recited at the 1892 World's Fair to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. Since that time, hundreds and thousands of civic organizations and schoolchildren have taken time before turning to their work to recite these moving words:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. President, I can remember as a schoolchild in Athens, Alabama, standing at my desk, placing my hand over my heart, fixing my eyes upon the flag, and reciting these eloquent words. I suspect many of our colleagues here in the Senate had the same experience in school as they were growing up.

Even at that early age, pledging allegiance to the flag encouraged me to think about the history and ideals of this Nation. It was an important ritual for schoolchildren then. It should be an important ritual for the Senate now.

Presently, we begin each day's business here in the Senate with a prayer. This solemn act reminds us of certain principles and values that we as a people hold dear. Similarly, daily recitation of the pledge would serve as an inspirational start to each legislative day.

The pledge is a time for reflecting on the inspiring history and ideals of liberty and freedom that the Stars and Stripes represents. Setting aside this time each day will serve to remind Americans of the venerated place the flag holds in our country and our culture.

Mr. President, among my most prized possessions is the American flag which honored, as he was laid to rest, my father's service to our Nation. That flag rests proudly on the marble mantel in my Senate office.

A clinical assessment of that flag would conclude that it is some mixture of cotton fabric, dyed red, white, and blue. But for me, it harkens back to the selfless patriotism of a father who fought for his Nation during World War II, a father who instilled in his son an awe and abiding respect for this great Nation we are all so fortunate to call home.

Old Glory has been a beacon of hope for over 200 years, a touchstone for patriotic Americans, and a source of comfort and pride for individuals at home and abroad. In the words of Senator Charles Sumner, "In a foreign land, the flag is companionship, and country itself, with all its endearments."

The flag is, without question, a powerful symbol the world over. For nearly

every American, it is the most powerful patriotic inspiration.

It is my distinct honor today to cosponsor this resolution as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. I also want to commend my good friend from New Hampshire, Senator BOB SMITH, for an excellent idea and for his leadership on this issue. The Senate should promptly pass this resolution to begin every day in the Senate Chamber with the pledge of allegiance to our flag and to the Republic for which it stands, the Republic to which we have dedicated ourselves as Senators.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS SHOULD INCLUDE IN THE 2000 DECENNIAL CENSUS ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES RESIDING ABROAD

Mr. ABRAHAM submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 38

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS SHOULD INCLUDE IN THE 2000 DECENNIAL CENSUS ALL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES RESIDING ABROAD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bureau of the Census has announced its intention to exclude more than 3,000,000 citizens of the United States living and working overseas from the 2000 decennial census because such citizens are not affiliated with the Federal Government.

(2) The Bureau of the Census has stated its desire to make the 2000 decennial census "the most accurate ever".

(3) Exports by the United States of goods, services, and expertise play a vital role in strengthening the economy of the United States—

(A) by creating jobs based in the United States; and

(B) by extending the influence of the United States around the globe.

(4) Citizens of the United States living and working overseas strengthen the economy of the United States—

(A) by purchasing and selling United States exports; and

(B) by creating business opportunities for United States companies and workers.

(5) Citizens of the United States living and working overseas play a key role in advancing the interests of the United States around the world as highly visible economic, political, and cultural ambassadors.

(6) In 1990, as a result of widespread bipartisan support in Congress, the Bureau of the Census enumerated all United States Government officials and other citizens of the United States affiliated with the Federal Government living and working overseas for the apportionment of representatives among the several States and for other purposes.

(7) In the 2000 decennial census, the Bureau of the Census again intends to so enumerate all such officials and other citizens of the United States.

(8) The Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975 gave citizens of the United States residing abroad the right to vote by absentee ballot in any Federal election in the State in

which the citizen was last domiciled over 2 decades ago.

(9) Citizens of the United States who live and work overseas, but who are not affiliated with the Federal Government, vote in elections and pay taxes.

(10) Organizations that represent individuals and companies overseas, including both Republicans Abroad and Democrats Abroad, support the inclusion of all citizens of the United States residing abroad in the 2000 decennial census.

(11) The Internet facilitates easy maintenance of close contact with all citizens of the United States throughout the world.

(12) All citizens of the United States living and working overseas should be included in the 2000 decennial census.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Bureau of the Census should enumerate all citizens of the United States residing overseas in the 2000 decennial census; and

(2) legislation authorizing and appropriating the funds necessary to carry out such an enumeration should be enacted.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 114—DESIGNATING JUNE 22, 1999, AS "NATIONAL PEDIATRIC AIDS AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BOND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBB, Mr. MACK, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DODD, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FRIST, Mr. INOUE, Mr. GORTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. REID, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KERREY, Mr. CHAFEE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. REED, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. KOHL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 114

Whereas acquired immune deficiency syndrome (referred to in this resolution as "AIDS") is the 7th leading cause of death for children in the United States;

Whereas approximately 15,000 children in the United States are currently infected with human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this resolution as "HIV"), the virus that causes AIDS;

Whereas the number of children who have died from AIDS worldwide since the AIDS epidemic began has reached 2,700,000;

Whereas it is estimated that an additional 40,000,000 children will die from AIDS by the year 2020;

Whereas perinatal transmission of HIV from mother to child accounts for 91 percent of pediatric HIV cases;

Whereas studies have demonstrated that the maternal transmission of HIV to an infant decreased from 30 percent to less than 8 percent after therapeutic intervention was employed;

Whereas effective drug treatments have decreased the percentage of deaths from AIDS in the United States by 47 percent in both 1998 and 1999;

Whereas the number of children of color infected with HIV is disproportionate to the national statistics with respect to all children;

Whereas The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation has been devoted over the past decade to the education, research, prevention, and elimination of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); and

Whereas the people of the United States should resolve to do everything possible to control and eliminate this epidemic that threatens our future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) in recognition of all of the individuals who have devoted their time and energy toward combatting the spread and costly effects of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, designates June 22, 1999, as "National Pediatric AIDS Awareness Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to submit a Senate Resolution recognizing June 22, 1999, as "National Pediatrics AIDS Awareness Day." I am sponsoring this resolution today with my colleague Senator BOXER from California and 52 of our other colleagues of the Senate.

Senator BOXER and I are cochairs for the 10th anniversary of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which promises to be a wonderful event. But, more importantly, through the generosity of many individuals and organizations, substantial funds will be raised to further the research necessary to defeat this disease which threatens so many lives—including children.

Infection of children with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is very different than infection in adults. Infected children get sick faster; their immune systems may deteriorate more quickly; treatment protocols are very different; and they often involve more complications. Almost all children with HIV infection have acquired the virus from their mothers. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, before preventive treatments were available, an estimated 1,000–2,000 babies were born with HIV infection each year in the United States.

Today, because of scientific and medical breakthroughs in pharmaceutical therapies, the mother-to-infant transmission rate has dropped from 43% in 1992 to 8% in 1997. The investment in prevention alone has resulted in avoiding an estimated 656 HIV infections and saves \$105.6 million in medical care costs. Thus we are indeed seeing results from the time, energy, and resources being expended to fight this dreaded disease. My hat is off to those front line researchers and clinicians who have devoted themselves to this task.

While significant advances have been made in decreasing pediatric HIV infection, we must continue to work tirelessly to develop an HIV vaccine that will enable the safe and effective immunization of children and adults. We

must better understand why HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects children of color and find cures to eradicate this epidemic. For our children living with HIV, we must provide them with the best possible therapeutic and social support to ensure their long, high quality life. I urge all senators to join me on June 22 at the National Building Museum to celebrate the successes which have been achieved in fighting HIV and AIDS among our youth and to renew our pledge to fight this disease until it disappears from the face of this earth.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very honored to rise today with my good friend, Senator HATCH, to submit a resolution designating June 22 as National Pediatric AIDS Awareness Day.

I am proud that we have the cosponsorship of 52 of our colleagues, which demonstrates a broad interest in the issue of children and AIDS.

Incredibly, AIDS is the seventh leading cause of death for children in the United States. We have lost 2.7 million precious children to this epidemic—a staggering and sobering statistic.

Our resolution recognizes and commemorates the children, families, and countless others in the health and education communities who have dedicated their substantial time and efforts to prevention and eradication of AIDS.

It also recognizes the 10th anniversary of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, an outstanding charitable organization which has devoted years of effort to the education, research, and prevention of HIV transmission and disease.

I hope the Senate will act quickly on this resolution to recognize the devastating effects of this terrible disease on millions of American children and their families, and to honor the contributions of thousands of others who are working to end the epidemic.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

Y2K ACT

MCCAIN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 608

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. FRIST, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 96) to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of that year's date; as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF SECTIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Y2K Act".

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of sections.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Application of Act.
- Sec. 5. Punitive damages limitations.
- Sec. 6. Proportionate liability.
- Sec. 7. Pre-litigation notice.
- Sec. 8. Pleading requirements.
- Sec. 9. Duty to mitigate.
- Sec. 10. Application of existing impossibility or commercial impracticability doctrines.
- Sec. 11. Damages limitation by contract.
- Sec. 12. Damages in tort claims.
- Sec. 13. State of mind: bystander liability; control.
- Sec. 14. Appointment of special masters or magistrate judges for Y2K actions.
- Sec. 15. Y2K actions as class actions.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that:

(1)(A) Many information technology systems, devices, and programs are not capable of recognizing certain dates in 1999 and after December 31, 1999, and will read dates in the year 2000 and thereafter as if those dates represent the year 1900 or thereafter or will fail to process dates after December 31, 1999.

(B) If not corrected, the problem described in subparagraph (A) and resulting failures could incapacitate systems that are essential to the functioning of markets, commerce, consumer products, utilities, Government, and safety and defense systems, in the United States and throughout the world.

(2) It is in the national interest that producers and users of technology products concentrate their attention and resources in the time remaining before January 1, 2000, on assessing, fixing, testing, and developing contingency plans to address any and all outstanding year 2000 computer date-change problems, so as to minimize possible disruptions associated with computer failures.

(3)(A) Because year 2000 computer date-change problems may affect virtually all businesses and other users of technology products to some degree, there is a substantial likelihood that actual or potential year 2000 failures will prompt a significant volume of litigation, much of it insubstantial.

(B) The litigation described in subparagraph (A) would have a range of undesirable effects, including the following:

(i) It would threaten to waste technical and financial resources that are better devoted to curing year 2000 computer date-change problems and ensuring that systems remain or become operational.

(ii) It could threaten the network of valued and trusted business and customer relationships that are important to the effective functioning of the national economy.

(iii) It would strain the Nation's legal system, causing particular problems for the small businesses and individuals who already find that system inaccessible because of its complexity and expense.

(iv) The delays, expense, uncertainties, loss of control, adverse publicity, and animosities that frequently accompany litigation of business disputes could exacerbate the difficulties associated with the date change and work against the successful resolution of those difficulties.

(4) It is appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation to assure that Y2K problems do not unnecessarily disrupt interstate commerce or create unnecessary caseloads in Federal courts and to provide initiatives to help businesses prepare and be in a position to withstand the potentially devastating economic impact of Y2K.

(5) Resorting to the legal system for resolution of Y2K problems is not feasible for